

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-13 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 11. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steiger (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0154842 A1) in view of Martinez (U.S. Patent No. 4,236,191). The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 3 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steiger, Martinez and Haake (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,025). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 11 are directed to string-instrument type electronic musical instruments. The instruments comprise a sounding section, a plurality of performance operators, a light emitting section and a tone generating processing section. The operators are provided to perform an operation corresponding to operating a string on a stringed musical instrument. For claim 1, the light emitting section is provided in proximity to the performance operators and in a position corresponding to the sounding section. For claim 11, the light emitting section is provided in a continuous shape along an outer periphery of the sounding section.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to recite that “the light emitting section is so dimensioned as to visually highlight a performance operation on said performance operators.” The claimed lighting emitting section allows the player to easily determine the correct operators and their timings for operation. Moreover, it allows an audience to easily see the performance operation and become excited both visually and aurally. (*See, e.g.*, specification at page 14, line 22 to page 15, line 22; Fig. 2A at 8B.)

Neither Steiger, Martinez nor Haake discloses or suggests the recited light emitting section of claims 1 and 11. Steiger does not disclose a light emitting section at all. Martinez discloses an acoustic guitar that receives a fiber optic bundle 30 as illustrated in Fig. 1. The ends 82 of individual fibers in the bundle are threaded through apertures 80 on the surface of the guitar as

illustrated in Figs. 1-3. (*See also* Col. 2, lines 57-61.) As Martinez clearly discloses, the light that emanates from the individual ends of fibers is to for decoration and ornamentation. (Col. 1, lines 7-9 and lines 56-61.) There is no disclosure or suggestion – and certainly Fig. 1 does not illustrate – a light emitting section that is dimensioned to visually highlight a performance operation on the performance operators. Haake is similarly deficient. Haake simply seeks to improve on Martinez by employing fibers 72 through apertures or holes 70 in an electric guitar as opposed to an acoustic guitar. (*See, e.g.*, Figs. 1 and 3; Col. 1, line 63 to Col. 2, line 26 and Col. 7, lines 11-14.) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 and 7-13 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032044000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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